This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A focusing apparatus comprising:

a distance-measuring device which measures distances of a plurality of points in a photographing field based on a principle of triangular distance measurement to detect a subject which is the closest to the focusing apparatus, of subjects in the photographing field;

a photographing lens;

a driving mechanism which drives the photographing lens along an optical axis;

an image pickup device which receives a subject light flux incident via the photographing lens to output a subject image signal; and

a CPU which controls the driving mechanism to drive the photographing lens along the optical axis, ~~while~~ thereby detecting a contrast of the subject image signal in a plurality of image pickup areas corresponding to the plurality of points and ~~which~~ thereafter adjusts a focal position of the photographing lens in a position which has a highest contrast of the subject image signal in an image pickup area corresponding to a point indicating a shortest distance of an output of the distance-measuring device in the plurality of points.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the distance-measuring device detects a brightness in the plurality of points, and

the image pickup device sets an integration time in the plurality of image pickup areas based on the detected brightness.

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A focusing apparatus comprising:

an image pickup device including a plurality of image pickup areas;

a focusing lens including an optical path via which a subject light flux is incident upon the image pickup device;

a focusing section which determines a plurality of focusing lens positions from a relation between the position of the focusing lens and a contrast of a subject image signal obtained on the image pickup device via the focusing lens;

a distance-measuring section which obtains the position of a subject in a photographing field and a distance to the subject ~~by the subject light flux incident via an optical path different from that of the focusing lens~~; ~~and~~

a calculation control section which obtains a plurality of combinations of the focusing lens position and the image pickup area for use at the time of the focusing by the position and distance of the subject obtained by the distance-measuring section; and

a control section which stops the focusing lens in the plurality of focusing lens positions in accordance with the plurality of combinations and which obtains the contrast of the subject image signal outputted from the

image pickup area of the combination corresponding to each focusing lens position and the contrast of the subject image signal outputted from the image pickup device in all the areas of the image pickup device to determine the position of the focusing lens.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the distance-measuring section includes a divided sensor array, and determines charge accumulation conditions of the image pickup device at the time of the obtaining of a change in the contrast by the output of the sensor array disposed in the distance-measuring section.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A focusing apparatus comprising:

a photographing lens;

an image pickup section which ~~detects~~ outputs a subject image incident via the photographing lens, and detects contrast information regarding an entire area of a photographing field and part of the entire area of the photographing field;

~~an optical system which is different from the photographing lens;~~

a distance-measuring section which ~~uses the optical system different from the photographing lens to measure a subject distance of~~ performs measurement to determine a focal position with respect to a plurality of points in a photographing field; and

a determining section which ~~focuses~~ moves the photographing lens ~~on~~ to a plurality of focal positions corresponding to a plurality of distance measurement results of the distance-measuring section and which determines an area to execute a final mountain climbing AF based on ~~contrasts obtained at the plurality of focal positions and the distance measurement results~~ the contrast information detected by the image pickup section and the focal position determined by the distance measuring section.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A camera including a focusing apparatus, comprising:

an irradiation device which selectively switches irradiation and non-irradiation of a subject with an auxiliary light for distance measurement;

a photographing lens;

a driving circuit which drives the photographing lens along an optical axis direction;

an image pickup device which receives a light flux incident from the subject via the photographing lens to output a subject image signal;

an image processing circuit which processes the subject image signal outputted from the image pickup device;

a distance-measuring device which includes a pair of optical systems and a pair of sensors for distance measurement to detect a plurality of subject images incident via the pair of optical systems and which outputs information associated with a subject distance based on the plurality of subject images detected by the sensors for distance measurement and which detects the

plurality of subject images in a case where the subject has a low brightness; and

a CPU which selectively executes a first auto-focus operation of detecting a contrast state based on the subject image signal processed by the image processing circuit to adjust a focus of the photographing lens, a second auto-focus operation of performing a distance-measuring operation by the distance-measuring device in a non-irradiation state of the auxiliary light for distance measurement to adjust the focus of the photographing lens in accordance with a result of the distance-measuring operation, and a third auto-focus operation of performing the distance-measuring operation by the distance-measuring device in an irradiation state of the auxiliary light for distance measurement to adjust the focus of the photographing lens in accordance with the result of the distance-measuring operation,

wherein the CPU first executes the second auto-focus operation, and then executes the first auto-focus operation, when the main subject is separated from the camera by a distance shorter than a predetermined distance after the second auto-focus operation, and executes the third auto-focus operation, when an output of each of the sensors for distance measurement has a level lower than a predetermined level after the second auto-focus operation.

Claim 10 (original): The camera according to claim 9, wherein the CPU judges whether or not the subject indicates the low brightness and executes any of the first, second, and third auto-focus operations in accordance with the result of the judgment.

Claim 11 (original): The camera according to claim 10, wherein the CPU executes the second auto-focus operation and judges that the subject indicates the low brightness, when the output of the sensors for distance measurement indicate a level not more than a predetermined level as a result of the second auto-focus operation.

Claim 12 (original): The camera according to claim 11, wherein the CPU executes the third auto-focus operation, when the subject is judged to indicate the low brightness.

Claim 13 (original): The camera according to claim 9, wherein the CPU executes the second auto-focus operation, and executes the first auto-focus operation, when the subject is judged to exist in a distance shorter than a predetermined distance.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A camera including a focusing apparatus, comprising:

a photographing lens;

an image pickup device which picks up a subject image by using the photographing lens;

a first auto-focus section which adjusts a focus of the photographing lens based on a contrast of a subject image obtained via the photographing lens;

~~a pair of optical systems which are different from the photographing lens;~~

a second auto-focus section which adjusts the focus of the photographing lens based on a pair of subject images obtained via the pair of optical systems;

a flash light irradiating section which irradiates a subject with a flash light;

a judging section which judges whether or not an auto-focus operation by the first auto-focus section is appropriate, based on contrast of the subject images; and

a control section which operates the first auto-focus section, when the judging section judges that the auto-focus operation by the first auto-focus section is appropriate and which operates both the second auto-focus section and the flash light irradiating section, when the judging section judges that the auto-focus operation by the first auto-focus section is inappropriate.

Claims 15-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A camera including a focusing apparatus, comprising:

a photographing lens;

an image pickup device which acquires a subject image signal via the photographing lens;

a first auto-focus section which performs focusing of the photographing lens based on a contrast of the subject image signal acquired by the image pickup device;

~~a pair of optical systems which are different from the photographing lens;~~

a distance-measuring device which uses a pair of subject image signals acquired via ~~the~~ a pair of optical systems to perform distance measurement;

a second auto-focus section which performs the focusing of the photographing lens in accordance with a

distance measurement result of the distance-measuring device;

a flash light irradiating section which irradiates a subject with a flash light;

a judging section which judges whether or not the pair of subject image signals obtained via the pair of optical systems or the subject image signal acquired by the image pickup device is appropriate for a distance-measuring operation of the distance-measuring device; and

a control section which irradiates the subject with the flash light in accordance with a judgment result of the judging section by the flash light irradiating section and which performs the focusing of the photographing lens preferentially by the second auto-focus section.

Claim 22 (original): A camera including a focusing apparatus, comprising:

a flash section which irradiates a subject with an auxiliary light;

a photographing lens;

a contrast type focusing section which acquires a subject image signal at the time of displacement of the photographing lens by a micro amount via the photographing lens and which determines a focusing position in accordance with a contrast change of the acquired subject image signal to control the focusing of the photographing lens;

an optical system which is different from the photographing lens;

a distance-measuring section which acquires a plurality of subject image signals via the optical system different from the photographing lens to measure a distance of the subject based on the acquired plurality of subject image signals; and

a control section which determines whether to continue focusing control by the contrast type focusing section or to change to the focusing control to determine the focusing position based on the distance measured by the distance-measuring section, based on the plurality of subject image signals acquired by the distance-measuring section when the subject is irradiated with the auxiliary light by the flash section.

Claim 23 (original): The camera according to claim 22, wherein the control section controls the irradiation of the subject with the auxiliary light by the flash section and controls the focusing by the contrast type focusing section, when the distance of the subject measured by the distance-measuring section is shorter than a predetermined value at the time of the irradiation with the auxiliary light by the flash section, and the contrast of the plurality of subject image signals acquired by the distance-measuring section is larger than a predetermined value.

Claim 24 (original): A camera including a focusing apparatus, comprising:

a photographing lens;

a driving mechanism which drives the photographing lens along an optical axis direction;

an image pickup device which receives a subject light flux incident via the photographing lens to output the subject image signal;

an image processing circuit which processes the subject image signal outputted from the image pickup device;

a distance-measuring device which includes a pair of optical systems and a pair of sensors for distance measurement to detect a pair of subject images incident via the pair of optical systems and which outputs information associated with a subject distance based on the subject images detected by the sensors for distance measurement; and

a CPU which detects the subject image signal processed by the image processing circuit or a brightness distribution of the pair of subject images detected by the sensors for distance measurement to select either one of the first and second auto-focus operations based on the detection result and which selectively executes a first auto-focus operation of detecting a contrast based on the subject image signal processed by the image processing circuit to adjust a focus of the photographing lens, and a second auto-focus operation of performing a distance-measuring operation by the distance-measuring device to adjust the focus of the photographing lens in accordance with a result of the distance-measuring operation.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A camera including a focusing apparatus, comprising:

a photographing lens including a diaphragm mechanism;

an image pickup section which includes an image pickup device to photograph a subject image incident via the photographing lens to obtain a subject image signal;

a setting section which sets conditions of an image pickup operation by the image pickup section;

a first auto-focus section which focuses the photographing lens from a contrast of the subject image signal obtained by the image pickup section;

~~a pair of optical systems for distance measurement which are different from the photographing lens;~~

a distance-measuring section which includes a pair of sensors for distance measurement to acquire a pair of subject image signals via ~~the~~ a pair of optical systems for distance measurement and which performs a distance-measuring operation to calculate a subject distance from the pair of subject image signals;

a second auto-focus section which focuses the photographing lens based on the distance measurement result of the distance-measuring section;

a selecting section which detects the subject image signal obtained by the image pickup device or a brightness distribution of the pair of subject image signals obtained by the sensors for distance measurement to select either one of the first and second auto-focus sections in accordance with a ratio of a low-brightness portion in the detected brightness distribution; and

a change section which changes the conditions of the distance-measuring operation set by the setting section, when the selecting section selects the second auto-focus section.

Claim 26 (original): The camera according to claim 25, wherein the conditions of the image pickup operation set by the setting section include at least aperture value information of the diaphragm mechanism, shutter speed information of a shutter to expose an image pickup plane of the image pickup device, and sensitivity information of the image pickup device.

Claim 27 (original): The camera according to claim 26, wherein the change section changes the aperture value information and the sensitivity information set by the setting section.

Claim 28 (original): The camera according to claim 27, wherein the change section the aperture value information so as to narrow down the diaphragm mechanism by a value larger than that in the aperture value information set by the setting section and changes the sensitivity of the image pickup device so as to raise the sensitivity of the image pickup device.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A camera including a focusing apparatus, comprising:

a photographing lens;

a first auto-focus section which includes an image pickup device to obtain a contrast of a subject image signal obtained via the photographing lens and which adjusts a focus of the photographing lens based on the contrast of the subject image signal obtained by the image pickup device;

~~a pair of optical systems which are different from the photographing lens;~~

a second auto-focus section which includes a distance-measuring device to perform a distance-measuring operation based on a pair of subject image signals obtained via ~~the~~ a pair of optical systems and which adjusts the focus of the photographing lens in accordance with the output of the distance-measuring device;

a detecting section which detects the subject image signal obtained by the image pickup device or a brightness distribution of the pair of subject image signals obtained by the distance-measuring device; and

a change section which selects the second auto-focus section in accordance with a ratio of a low-brightness portion of a brightness distribution detected by the detecting section and which changes an aperture value of the diaphragm mechanism in the photographing lens and a sensitivity of the image pickup device.

Claims 30-32 (canceled)